

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 183095

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FOR AMBASSADOR FROM NEA/ARN DRAPER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (SWIG, BENJAMIN H.)

SUBJECT: VISIT TO JORDAN BY MR. BENJAMIN SWIG

1. THIS IS TO ALERT YOU TO THE ARRIVAL IN AMMAN ON SUNDAY, JULY 25, OF MR. AND MRS. BENJAMIN H. SWIG AND THEIR SON, MELVIN, FOR A FOUR-DAY VISIT TO JORDAN AT THE PERSONAL INVITATION OF KING HUSSEIN AND QUEEN ALIA. MR. SWIG, AGED 83, OWNS THE FAIRMONT HOTEL IN SAN FRANCISCO, WHERE HE ENTERTAINED THEIR MAJESTIES IN EARLY APRIL OF THIS YEAR, AND IS CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY. HIS SON MELVIN, AGED 49, IS PRESIDENT OF THE SAN FRANCISCO SEALS HOCKEY TEAM. THEIR VISIT TO JORDAN STEMS FROM AN INVITATION MADE TO THEM BY KING HUSSEIN DURING HIS APRIL VISIT TO SAN FRANCISCO.

2. SWIG PARTY IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE AMMAN AIRPORT AT 1755 LOCAL, SUNDAY, JULY 25, VIA RJA FLIGHT 112. THEY WILL LODGE AT THE ROYAL GUEST HOUSE FOR FOUR DAYS, DEPARTING
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AT 1730 LOCAL, THURSDAY, JULY 29, VIA RJA FLIGHT 103.

3. FYI: BENJAMIN SWIG IS WELL KNOWN AS A MAJOR WEST COAST CONTRIBUTOR TO FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGNS FOR ISRAEL, AND PARTY'S PASSPORTS ARE LIKELY TO CONTAIN INDICATIONS OF PRE-

VIOUS VISITS TO ISRAEL. DEPARTMENT'S RECEPTION CENTER AT SAN FRANCISCO, WHICH HAS NOTIFIED US OF MR. SWIG'S TRAVEL PLANS, RECALLS THAT HE WAS DENIED ENTRY TO JORDAN FROM THE WEST BANK APPROXIMATELY A YEAR AGO, WHEN HE PREVIOUSLY TRIED TO VISIT THE EAST BANK IN RESPONSE TO AN EARLIER INVITATION FROM THEIR MAJESTIES. THIS INCIDENT APPARENTLY RESULTED FROM A SNAFU IN COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE ROYAL PALACE AND JORDANIAN OFFICIALS AT THE BRIDGE. YOU MAY WISH TO CHECK WITH APPROPRIATE GOJ OFFICIALS TO FACILITATE SWIG PARTY'S RECEPTION AT AMMAN AIRPORT ON THIS OCCASION. END FYI. ROBINSON

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